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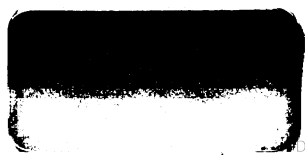
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A

# TREATISE

ON

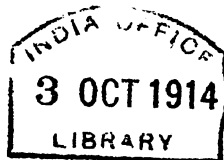
THE DISEASES AND BREEDING

OF

CAMELS.







A

# **TREATISE**

ON

**THE DISEASES AND BREEDING**

OF

**CAMELS,**

WITH

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR PRESERVATION, RECIPES,  
AND GENERAL TREATMENT.**



BY

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## PREFATORY REMARKS.



It would be superfluous to enter into a dissertation on the history of the Camel, as the public are already in possession of ample information regarding the nature and properties of this noble and serviceable animal ; but an account of the various diseases incidental to the genus, their treatment and cure, has not, I believe, hitherto been offered to the world : and if this manual, drawn up during my leisure hours, be in any degree useful to Government, and the public, I shall consider my labours fully compensated by their approbation and countenance. My information is derived from a Rewaree (tribe Buhlowch) named Goolaub, who was formerly in the service of Raja Kurrum Singh, a powerful and independent Sikh chief, in the capacity of a superintendent of camels. He has communicated his



knowledge with much freedom and candour, and I therefore present to the public his intelligence regarding the treatment of camels with the greater satisfaction. The man is a resident of Dhodhé, in the British protected Sikh states, and the subject of the above Raja Kurrum Singh, chief of Puteealah.

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OF THE  
**TREATMENT OF THE CAMEL,**  
FROM  
**Its Birth to Maturity.**



When the quadruped is born, two seers of water (pucka); mother's milk, two pice weight, mixed with half a pice weight of oil, are given to the young animal: this is administered to strengthen the offspring. For 15 days after birth, the beast is restricted to one nipple for its sustenance; for this reason, as affirmed by my author, that the quality of the milk is so acrimonious, that if the young were permitted to satisfy itself, it would infallibly die. Consequently, the greatest care is taken that the young one does not fully indulge its appetite. Five or six days after, the animal is allowed to suck a second teat, and subsequently it is set free, to drink and graze at its pleasure. The chief apprehension for the life of the young camel, exists for a period of about 20 days, after which, and particularly when it has attained to the age of one month, there is no fear. The mother, on her parturition, may be given five seers kucha of turmeric, and 25 seers kucha of ghee or clarified butter, in order to produce copious lactation. The second month, the young may mingle and pas-

ture with the drove, and partake of the ingredients given to its species every week, consisting of six chittacks of kaleejeree, and 10 chittacks of salt, to each camel. When the animal has arrived at the age of a year or 15 months, and the dam proves pregnant, it is separated from its mother, and herded with its kindred, in years. In this state of freedom and nourishment the young camel is indulged to the period of three years, when it is considered strong enough (although toothless) to carry a burthen, and the proprietors begin to let them out on hire. By the above it may be concluded, that the camel is matured for carriage at three years, and attains its full growth or perfection in five years, when it cuts two teeth; the sixth it cuts two more; the seventh two more; the eighth two more, called Nesh, or jaw-teeth, making an aggregate of eight teeth; and the ninth year two other teeth, termed Nesh, or back-teeth. At this period the camel has cut its full complement of teeth, and is supposed to be in its prime and full vigour; and after this period it is considered on the decline.

Should the young camel, on its birth, through carelessness or inattention, be suffered to drink too much of the dam's milk, its effects are so strong, that it intoxicates the animal; it is seized with giddiness, falls down, rolls and wallows about: if immediate relief is not afforded, it dies. In this extreme, if timely information be given, the young one is branded just below the hunch, and its fore and hind legs. Should the offspring be only slightly affected, immediate immersion should be quickly adopted.

### THE AGE OF THE CAMEL.

The camel's longest term of life is from 20 to 22 years at the utmost, and its usual period of active, vigorous health, from 9 to 17 or 18 years at furthest.

### OF THE RUTTING SEASON, CALLED ROOT.

Camels become venereous about the middle of October, and the affection leaves them about the end of February.

### OF SHEARING AND FATTENING.

They are generally sheared in the beginning of March, and have nourishing food given to them in September, for 10 or 15 days, to strengthen and stimulate the system to procreation. The mode is called Pooshtae, and the recipe is as follows : Equal quantity, one seer of half ground wheat (termed Dulya), and one seer of ground cresses (called Halim and Chunsoor), administered daily at a stated period, say six or seven o'clock in the morning. This prepared food is said to be of a very nourishing and invigorating nature, and to qualify the animal for hard labour and heavy burthens during the remainder of the year. The animals are also anointed with oil at this season, to preserve them from the itch.

### OF THE FECUNDITY OF THE CAMEL.

The camel generally brings forth one at a birth : instances, however, have been known, of two, but very rare. My author possessed a she camel that yielded two at a birth, in the year 1824. The young ones died, and he gave the dam in charity to a Brahmin,

agreeable to the tenets of his religion, which countenances the act, as a meritorious one.

#### OF THE PREGNANCY OF THE CAMEL.

The camel conceives and begins to look large about 15 days after copulation, and is 13 months going with young. The male is fit for generation at the age of five years, and the female is able to bear young at three years, and some prove pregnant at two years of age.

The camel, when toothless, is termed Udunt.

Dwakka, when it has cut two teeth.

Chowga, ditto ditto four.

Chhigga, ditto ditto six.

Jaw or back teeth.	{	Nesh,	ditto	ditto	eight.
		Nesh also,	ditto	ditto	ten.

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#### OF DISEASES OF CAMELS, THEIR DESCRIPTION, TREATMENT, AND CURE.

##### LIST OF MALADIES.

Patleean.—Hoobee, or Wen.—Kookra.—Biswah, or Rheumatism.—Ganthul.—Jymut, or Fever.—Poorana, or Epidemic.—Paon, or Itch.—Goomree and Koopal, or Nodes.—Kandoolda, or Ear-ache.—Bao, or Stroke of the Wind.—Utroo, or Cough.—Excrescences are termed Hikkur and Gooddee.

Patleean is a grisly excrescence, arising in the nose of the camel, which prevents its respiration, and creates a copious flow of mucus. This distem-

per generally affects camels in the decline of life. Treatment, excision of the parts, and cautery of the snout.

Hoobee, or the Wen, is very common among camels, and chiefly affects them in their rutting season. Treatment, "searing."

Kookra is a tumour generated in the throat, at the root of the tongue, which prevents the camel from grazing, ruminating, or swallowing. The method resorted to for the relief of the animal, is to introduce forcibly into the æsophagus a switch 18 inches long, and destroy the tumour by friction: subsequently a couple of chillies, pounded with a very small quantity of salt, is topically administered; after this, cauterizing the tail within four fingers of the stump. In two days the animal perfectly recovers.

Biswah, or Rheumatism, is extremely prevalent among camels, and the prescriptions for its cure are various, viz. Give Kuroo, two chittacks pucka, well pounded, for six or seven days successively; if the animal is not relieved, then take two chittacks of pucka Kaleejeera, and one chittack of salt, both pounded, and steep the same in human urine for 24 hours, and then administer it internally. If this method should fail,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a seer pucka of ghee, for five or six days; and if this remedy prove ineffectual, then searing the navel, and four fingers above, laterally or crossways, and two streaks lengthways, or longitudinally with the navel, and finally branding

all four legs in the hollow of the ancle joint : beyond this there is no antidote.

**Ganthul.** This is a node or knot formed in the system of the animal, and originates in external violence : it is not perceptible without, and the only mode of discovery is by examining the dung of the camel, which is evacuated in long and dry fragments, and not round, as when the beast is healthy. The mode adopted in this case (by a man skilled in the management of camels, and conversant with the constitution of the creature,) is to lubricate his arm with oil, and introduce it through the anus of the animal, in order to search for the seat of the disorder ; which when ascertained, cautery is applied to the part externally, which process dissolves the knot within, and the animal shortly recovers : but those who are ignorant of the art, merely sear the hind parts of the animal; four fingers below the groin, in the inner thighs of both legs : a cure is thereby effected. The above diseases are incidental to camels at all seasons.

**Jymut, or Fever.**—This malady attacks camels in both seasons, hot and cold, more especially the latter, when the animal is reduced to great straits, and is much affected with the virulence of the distemper. The symptoms are total want of appetite, languor, and inertness of the system, and prostration of strength ; and if not speedily removed, it proves fatal. The remedy adopted in the first instance, two handfuls of Kuroo pounded, for three days : salt and ghee to be carefully avoided : if unknowingly given, it will kill

the animal. If the fever does not subside in three days, take two cakes of cow-dung well ignited, and heat the part immediately below the ears and flanks : if this should fail, then cautery is resorted to, searing immediately below the ears, and around the bump between the fore legs. There is one more recipe, namely, one seer of Goor, and quarter of a seer pukka Ujwaeen, well boiled in seven or eight seers of water : to be given cold, for two days. It is, however, very seldom that all the above remedies fail.

**Poorana, or Epidemic.**—This is a terrible, unaccountable, and incurable distemper : it is contagious, and may be said to be a scourge to the camel kind, similar to the plague among men, and murrain among cattle. It is of so infectious and inveterate a nature, that whole droves fall victims to its virulence. The symptoms of this distemper appear to be want of appetite, melancholy, prostration of strength, falling off in flesh, convulsive fits, and ultimate dissolution. The animal experiences temporary relief for a few days, grazes freely, is cheerful, and seemingly convalescent, when the disease returns with redoubled force, and breaks the constitution of the animal. It is said to last for three years, to which period if the camel survives, the inveteracy of the malady is said to subside, and the animal recovers. The origin of the disease has not hitherto been discovered ; but it is conjectured to be engendered in the rainy season, (during the months of June, July, August, and September,) from the poisonous stings of insects, which abound in the woods, such as mosquitoes, gadflies, flies, &c. ; these infest



the animal incessantly ; and it is surmised, that the venom entering into the system might produce the symptomatic effects. The mode of ascertaining when the camel is infected is, by smelling its urine, which emits a foetid odour : those who are clever, immediately detect the contagion, and separate the animal from the herd. It appears that the distemper is merely prevalent during the rains ; but when once contracted, the animal should not be allowed to remain with the healthy for three years, when if it lives, it is not liable to catch the epidemic during the remainder of its life.—N. B. Forage “ Lana” “ Peeloo ;” very beneficial to the camel in this disease.

**Paon, or Itch.**—The remedy for this affection is very simple : with five seers of Sesamum oil, mix two chittacks of brimstone. If a kind of oil called Tara-meera can be procured, so much the better.

**Goomree and Koopalee** is a protuberance issuing from the brain.—Recipe. Brand the part, and administer snuff for three days, composed of tobacco and the seed “ Kundule,” a pinch of each, which is blown up the nostrils. The excrescence ought not to be neglected, or allowed to grow, else it causes the animal great pain.

**Kandoolda, or Ear-ache.**—Recipe. Take a quantity of well saturated sheep’s dung, and boil it well ; then apply it topically with a bandage for three days.

**Bao, or Stroke of the Wind.** This paralyzes the fore and hind legs of the animal, and sometimes affects the eyes in such a manner as to deprive them of sight.—**Recipe.** Administer two seers pucka coarse brown sugar, two seers pucka of Sesamum oil, mixed together for one day : if there be no change in the state of the animal, then take one seer pucka of garlick, and one seer pucka of Goor or molasses, bruize, mix, and administer the same : if this should fail, then try half a seer of “ Peepramool,” pounded fine, and give it to the beast, which must be well protected from the air, by coarse canvas, or any similar covering : the wind ought on no account to get to the animal. If the above should fail, quarter of a seer pucka Googoor, “ a kind of gum,” and quarter of a seer pucka of Babhrung, bruized ; mix and administer : the same precaution with respect to air to be observed. And lastly, in the event of all these remedies proving ineffectual, cautery is finally resorted to. The same process of searing is also adopted to restore the sight of camels.

**Utroo, or Cough.**—**Remedy.** Take half a seer pucka of barley, unground ; administer it down the throat, and muzzle the animal for two days, without any other kind of food whatever : the animal recovers in three days at furthest. It may be presumed, that the effect of this recipe proceeds from the sharp pointed ends of the grain, which cut the phlegm in their passage through the gullet, and relieve the animal by expectoration. The camel is also seared across the ribs, on the right side, in three streaks.

**Hikkur** is a nodous swelling which appears on the chest : if more on the right side than the left, then the sinews of the left foot are seared two or three fingers from the nail, and *vice versa*.

**Soor, or Gripes.**—Remedy. Sear the left buttock parallel with the tail, one streak, a span in length, longitudinally.

**Jor, or strain from being overloaded.**—Remedy. Brand the two flanks, two streaks of four inches long on each, with a space of two fingers between every streak, and a brand under the tail.

**Janwa**—is an affection of the knee, and lames the animal.—Recipe. Sear the part  $\frac{3}{4}$  round.

**N. B.** If the camel should be overcome with the heat, the animal is bled, and about eight seers of blood taken, after which  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a seer pucka Mihndee (Hinna),  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a seer pucka Kuthura, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a seer pucka Ownla ; bruize, and mix in an earthen pot full of water, which give to the beast for three days.

**Machhéhé**—is a singular affection of the hips of the animal. It is not known from what cause it springs, but it lames the camel. In this, as in the majority of cases, branding is adopted : the beast is seared by a mark thus + in the inside of the fore hips ; and if that should fail, then excoriate the muscles of the hip, until blood is produced, and the milk of the

**Madar plant dropt into the wound. In three days the animal recovers.**

#### NOTES.

Should the she camel not hold after having given birth, it is ascribed to the retention of the urine and coagulated blood of the young one remaining in the womb, and is termed "Moot:" this is removed by manual insertion into the womb of a piece of rag steeped in Sesamum oil, and squeezed on the part. The effect is such, that it dissolves the accumulated mass, and it is voided in a liquid. It is said, that the animal proves barren as long as the operation is not accomplished.

Mus—is another cause of unfruitfulness in the camel: it is occasioned by a thin fleshy excrescence in the privities of the animal, and is removed either by cautery with a heated needle, or excision.

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#### DEFECTS OR BLEMISHES OF THE CAMEL.

**Bughulee, Kheesa, Rapha, Rugso, Kumuree, Chancha, Girko, Seeahkor.**

Bughulee is a malconformation of the flanks of the animal, which rub against the hip bone, and cause excoriation and sores.

Kheesa is a morbid swelling, arising in the sides of the animal, which breaks, and large quantities of pus or matter are discharged. There appears to be no remedy for this blemish.

Rapha is an excrescence, chiefly behind, but sometimes on the side of the bump, between the two forelegs of the animal, and grows to an enormous size, if neglected. Scarify and eradicate the part, and sear it.

Rugso is a weakness of the sinews of the hind legs. The criterion to discover this defect is by pressing the sinews downwards ; and if they recede, the animal is faulty ; if they bear the pressure, it is without blemish : this practice seems not to be generally observed.

Kumuree, or weakness of the loins.

Chancha, or the under jaw being three fingers shorter than the upper.

Girko, or club-footed.

Seeahkor, blind of one eye, from local causes.

MEMORANDUM OF DRUGS USED IN MEDICINE FOR  
CAMELS.

Peepramool,—Root of the long pepper bush.

Kaleejeeree,—Black cumin seed.

Mehndee,—Wild myrtle, or Hinna.

Ownla,—Myrabolans.

Kutheera,—Gum Tragacanth.

Gookoor,—A kind of gum which exudes from the tree called “ Googoor,” or Bdllium.

Babhrung, or Babaree,—“ Black pepper.”

Halim and Chunsoor,—Cresses.

Ujwaeen.—Caraway seeds.

Kuroo.

Kunduee.

N. B. A camel doctor, or one skilled in discovering the diseases of the camel, is called “ Khemar,” as my intelligencer gives me to understand.

The food of the camel, in its wild, roaming state, is chiefly forage. The species of pasturage which the animal prefers is the "Peeloo," "Lana," "Peepul," "Neem," "Oonth Kuteela;" and prickly plants, such as the "Babool," &c.; but their usual diet, in cantonment, is chaff and gram. The natives themselves very seldom indulge their cattle with any luxuries.



### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The camel, my informant says, thrives much better towards the S. W. regions than the N. E. and S. E. from the circumstance of diseases incidental to the species being less prevalent, owing perhaps to the climate, forage, &c.; and the paucity of scientific people taking service with us may be safely assigned as a reason for the immense loss both Government and individuals sustain from mismanagement and ignorance of the art, known only to those who are born and bred in the tracts where these useful animals are produced. In order, therefore, to remedy so extensive an evil, these few pages have been composed for the Government, and the public; and the author hopes that this humble treatise may meet with suitable encouragement and patronage.



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COMPLETED

21 JUL 1916



